Air Service at Hubli airport

767. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flights from Hubli airport have been suspended for the last many months; and

(b) if so, by when the same are likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The services may be resumed after the High Tension line across the approach sector of the runway is removed by the State Government and the availability of aircraft with Vayudoot Limted is improved.

Import of crude oil from Iraq

768. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import crude oil from Iraq during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the details of this deal; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production of crude oil in the country to minimise its import in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) For the year 1990-91 Indian Oil Corporation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SOMO, National Oil Co. of Iraq for import of 2.25 million tonnes of crude oil.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase production of oil include:

—Prevention of decline in producing fields by expediting liquidation of sick wells, introduction of artificial lift schemes as and when required, and periodical stimulation of wells to increase their production.

—Timely completion of ongoing development programme i.e. drilling of development wells, and installation of surface production, processing and transportation facilities.

—Taking up of new development projects in order to obtain production from new fields.

Expansion of Barauni Refinery in Bihar

769. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take action for the expansion of Barauni Refinery in Bihar; and

(b) if so, from what sources, Government expect to get excess crude to meet the extended capacity of Barauni Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The project for augmentation of utilities/offsite facilities at a total cost of Rs. 19.5 crores to enable operation of Barauni refinery at 3.8 MTPA is still under consideration of the Government.

Electricity Bills by DESU

770. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is at present sending bills of electricity charges by post resulting in non-delivery, delay, extra burden on the mail as well as manifold problems to the consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that earlier these bills were sent by DESU through Messenger service; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to revert back to the earlier practice to solve the problems being faced by the consumers?